

House Bill 1041 (AS PASSED HOUSE AND SENATE)

By: Representatives Cooper of the 41st, Wilkinson of the 52nd, Rynders of the 152nd, Willard of the 49th, Maddox of the 172nd, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

To amend Article 1 of Chapter 26 of Title 43 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the "Georgia Registered Professional Nurse Practice Act," so as to eliminate obsolete language relating to graduate nurses; to require fingerprint record checks for applicants for licensure as a registered professional nurse; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

SECTION 1.

Article 1 of Chapter 26 of Title 43 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the "Georgia Registered Professional Nurse Practice Act," is amended by revising Code Section 43-26-6, relating to the use of the title by a licensed registered nurse or advanced practice registered nurse, as follows:

"43-26-6.

(a) Any person who is licensed as a registered professional nurse shall have the right to use the title 'registered professional nurse' and the abbreviation 'R.N.' Any person recognized by the board as an advanced practice registered nurse shall have the right to use the title 'advanced practice registered nurse' and the abbreviation 'A.P.R.N.' No other person shall assume such titles or use such abbreviations or any other words, letters, signs, or symbols to indicate that such person is a registered professional nurse or an advanced practice registered nurse in Georgia. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to repeal the right of any person who is licensed as a registered professional nurse or recognized by the board as an advanced practice registered nurse on June 30, 2006, to be licensed and to use the title 'registered professional nurse' or to use the title 'advanced practice registered nurse,' respectively.

(b) Any person holding a license to practice nursing as a licensed undergraduate nurse, which license was issued by the board and valid on July 1, 1975, shall be deemed to be licensed to practice nursing as a licensed undergraduate nurse under this article and shall

1 have the right to use the title 'licensed undergraduate nurse' and the abbreviation 'L.U.N.'
2 No other person shall assume such title or use such abbreviation or any other words, letters,
3 signs, or symbols to indicate that such person is licensed to practice nursing as a licensed
4 undergraduate nurse. After July 1, 1975, there shall be no new certificates issued for
5 licensure to practice nursing as a licensed undergraduate nurse.

6 ~~(c) An applicant who holds an examination temporary permit may use the title 'graduate~~
7 ~~nurse' and the abbreviation 'G.N.' until the license to practice nursing as a registered~~
8 ~~professional nurse has been issued. An applicant who fails the first examination may no~~
9 ~~longer use the title 'graduate nurse' or abbreviation 'G.N.' An individual who is qualified~~
10 ~~to use the title 'graduate nurse' must practice under the on-site supervision of a registered~~
11 ~~professional nurse or physician.~~

12 ~~(d)~~ Any person who is licensed as a registered professional nurse shall identify that he or
13 she is so licensed by displaying either the title 'registered professional nurse' or 'registered
14 nurse,' the abbreviation 'R.N.,' the title 'advanced practice registered nurse,' or the
15 abbreviation 'A.P.R.N.' on a name tag or other similar form of identification during times
16 when such person is providing direct patient care. An advanced practice registered nurse
17 shall meet the identification requirements of this subsection by displaying the title or
18 abbreviation of his or her area of specialization."

19 SECTION 2.

20 Said article is further amended in Code Section 43-26-7, relating to requirements for
21 licensure as a registered professional nurse, as follows:

22 "43-26-7.

23 (a) Any applicant who meets the requirements of this Code section shall be eligible for
24 licensure as a registered professional nurse.

25 (b) An applicant for licensure by examination shall:

26 (1) Submit a completed written application and fee;

27 (2) Have graduated from a nursing education program; approved by ~~this~~ the board; or
28 which meets criteria similar to, and not less stringent than, those established by ~~this~~ the
29 board;

30 (3) Pass a board recognized licensing examination; provided, however, that such
31 examination may not be taken prior to graduation from the nursing education program;
32 and

33 (4) Have satisfactory results from a fingerprint record check report conducted by the
34 Georgia Crime Information Center and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, as
35 determined by the board. Application for a license under this Code section shall
36 constitute express consent and authorization for the board or its representative to perform

1 a criminal background check. Each applicant who submits an application to the board
2 for licensure by examination agrees to provide the board with any and all information
3 necessary to run a criminal background check, including, but not limited to, classifiable
4 sets of fingerprints. The applicant shall be responsible for all fees associated with the
5 performance of such background check; and

6 ~~(4)~~(5) Meet such other criteria as established by the board.

7 (c) An applicant for licensure by endorsement shall:

8 (1) Submit a completed written application and fee;

9 (2) Have passed a board recognized licensing examination following graduation from ~~the~~
10 a nursing education program approved by the board or which meets criteria similar to,
11 and not less stringent than, those established by the board;

12 (3) Submit verification of initial and current licensure in any other licensing jurisdiction
13 administering a board recognized licensing examination;

14 (4) Have practiced nursing as a registered professional nurse for a period of time as
15 determined by the board or have graduated from a nursing education program within the
16 four years immediately preceding the date of the application; and

17 (5) Have satisfactory results from a fingerprint record check report conducted by the
18 Georgia Crime Information Center and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, as
19 determined by the board. Application for a license under this Code section shall
20 constitute express consent and authorization for the board or its representative to perform
21 a criminal background check. Each applicant who submits an application to the board
22 for licensure by examination agrees to provide the board with any and all information
23 necessary to run a criminal background check, including, but not limited to, classifiable
24 sets of fingerprints. The applicant shall be responsible for all fees associated with the
25 performance of such background check; and

26 ~~(5)~~(6) Meet such other criteria as established by the board.

27 (d) An applicant for reinstatement who has previously held a valid license in Georgia shall:

28 (1) Submit a completed written application and fee;

29 (2) Have practiced nursing as a registered professional nurse for a period of time as
30 determined by the board or have graduated from a nursing education program approved
31 by the board or which meets criteria similar to, and not less stringent than, those
32 established by the board within the four years immediately preceding the date of the
33 application; and

34 (3) Have satisfactory results from a fingerprint record check report conducted by the
35 Georgia Crime Information Center and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, as
36 determined by the board. Application for a license under this Code section shall
37 constitute express consent and authorization for the board or its representative to perform

1 a criminal background check. Each applicant who submits an application to the board
2 for licensure by examination agrees to provide the board with any and all information
3 necessary to run a criminal background check, including, but not limited to, classifiable
4 sets of fingerprints. The applicant shall be responsible for all fees associated with the
5 performance of such background check; and
6 ~~(3)~~(4) Meet such other criteria as established by the board."

7 **SECTION 3.**

8 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.